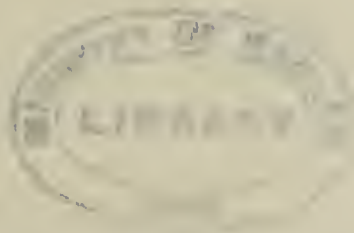


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WESTHOUGHTON URBAN DISTRICT COUNCIL.

ANNUAL REPORT

of the

MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH

for

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PUBLIC HEALTH DEPARTMENT,
WESTHOUGHTON.

August, 1948.

PUBLIC HEALTH DEPARTMENT,

TOWN HALL,

WESTHOUGHTON.

August, 1948.

To the Chairman and Members of
the Health Committee.

I beg to submit the Annual Report upon the Health of the District for the year 1947.

It follows similar lines to those of the immediately previous years in conformity with the recommendations of the Ministry of Health.

I am,

Yours faithfully,

E. TAYLOR,

Medical Officer of Health.

AREA OF THE DISTRICT - 5,560 acres.
 CENCUS POPULATION, 1931 - 16,018.
 ESTIMATED POPULATION 1947 - 14,920.
 NUMBER OF INHABITED HOUSES AT END OF YEAR - 4,489.

VITAL STATISTICS.

		Total.	M.	F.		
	Legitimate	258	122	136		
Live Births	Illegitimate	10	5	5	Birthrate per 1,000 estimated population mid 1947.	17.9
	Total	268	127	141		
Stillbirths		14	8	6	Rate per 1,000 total (live & still)births	49.0
Deaths		180	96	84	Deathrate per 1,000 estimated population	12.0

Deaths from puerperal causes.

	Deaths	Deathrate per 1,000 total (live & still) births.
Puerperal & post-abortion sepsis	Nil	Nil
Other maternal causes	Nil	Nil
Total	<u>Nil</u>	<u>Nil</u>

Deathrate of Infants under one year of age.

All infants per 1,000 live births	44
Legitimate infants per 1,000 legitimate live births	46
Illegitimate infants per 1,000 illegitimate live births	Nil
Deaths from Cancer (all ages)	21
Deaths from Measles " "	Nil
Deaths from Whooping Cough (all ages)	Nil
Deaths from Diarrhoea (under 2 years of age)	1

Population for Birth-rate & Death-rate - 14,920.

Per 1,000 of estimated population					
	Live Birth rate	Crude Death rate	Deathrate from Tuberculosis of respiratory system	Deathrate from Cancer	Rate of deaths under one year per 1,000 live Births
Mean of 5 years 1942 - 1946	16.7	12.4	0.22	1.61	45
1946	16.5	13.5	0.06	1.63	41
1947	17.9	12.0	0.13	1.40	44
Increase or decrease in 1947 on :-					
(1) 5 yrs average 1942 - 1946	+ 1.2	- 0.4	- 0.09	- 0.21	- 1
(2) Previous year	+ 1.4	- 1.5	+ 0.07	- 0.23	+ 3
Maternal Mortality Rate					
	per 1,000 live births		Per 1,000 total (live & still) births.		
Mean of 5 yrs. 1942 - 1946	4.20		4.02		
1946	4.11		3.86		
1947	Nil		Nil		
Increase or decrease in 1947 on:-					
(1) 5 yrs average 1942 - 1946	- 4.20		- 4.02		
(2) previous year	- 4.11		- 3.86		

WATER SUPPLY.

The District is supplied with water by Bolton Corporation, which is filtered and treated before going into supply. All dwelling-houses are supplied direct from the mains. Frequent chemical and bacteriological examinations are made by Bolton Corporation. Five examinations were made of the water as received at terminal points in the area.

No. of bacteriological examinations 5 Result - Satisfactory

No. of chemical examinations 5 Result - Satisfactory

No action was necessary in respect of any form of contamination.
No liability to plumbo-solvent action.

It is therefore clear that the quality of the water available to the District is all that can be desired, but particularly during the summer months considerable concern was felt on account of the quantity of water available in those areas of the town which are elevated - e.g. Hilton House, Fourgates and Snydale. An increase in water consumption had been foreseen by the Council and an agreement with Bolton Corporation for an additional main supply already initiated. As a result of this aggravation and continual reduction in available water it was eventually decided to engage the services of a Consultant Water Engineer and his report is now awaited.

DRAINAGE.

There have been no important extensions or alterations in the general scheme.

Mainly as a result of enquiries resulting from measures taken in connection with the epidemic of Poliomyelitis, several defects were found at Dog Holes Farm Sewage Disposal Works and the necessary rectifying steps taken. It was also discovered that the storm water overflow from the Park Road Sewer was so defective as to allow considerable amounts of crude sewage to enter the stream that runs through the Hall Lee Bank Park and feeds a Paddling Pool. The Paddling Pool was drained and closed immediately and has remained closed since. A new and improved storm water overflow has been installed and its function is under observation.

HOUSING.

In common with surrounding areas, lack of houses is of paramount importance. There were, at the end of the year, 550 names on the Council's list of applicants and of these about 350 were living in lodgings. The newly marrieds, starting a family under these conditions, have to endure all kinds of difficulties and the all important foundations of infant management are too frequently not laid or laid very imperfectly.

During the year 30 houses were completed as follows:-

- | | |
|--------------------------------|----|
| (1) By the Local Authority | 14 |
| (2) By other bodies or persons | 16 |

whilst there were in course of erection on Hindleys Estate No. 5. 54 houses and 8 bungalows, and at Daisy Hill 44 three-bedroomed houses.

A further 56 houses are contemplated on the Townsfield Estate.

SANITARY INSPECTIONS.

A total of 3068 premises were visited and 972 defects or nuisances discovered, necessitating the serving of 317 Informal Notices and 71 Statutory Notices. Legal proceedings were taken in 3 instances - Abatement Orders being obtained in all cases - albeit after considerable delay.

Inspections of dwelling-houses during the year:-

Total number of dwelling-houses inspected for housing defects (under Public Health or Housing Acts.)	134
Number of inspections made for the purpose	957
Number of dwelling-houses found to be in a state so dangerous or injurious to health as to be unfit for human habitation	-
Number of dwelling-houses(exclusive of those referred to under the preceding sub-head) found not to be in all respects reasonably fit for human habitation	134

Remedy of defects during the year without service of formal notices:-

Number of defective dwelling-houses rendered fit in consequence of informal action by the local authority	92
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Action under statutory powers during the year.

1. Proceedings under sections 9, 10 and 16 of the Housing Act, 1936.

Number of dwelling-houses in respect of which notices were served requiring repairs 29

Number of dwelling-houses which were rendered fit after service of formal notices:

(a) By owners 7
(b) By local authority in default of owners 9

2. Proceedings under Public Health Acts.

Number of dwelling-houses in respect of which notices were served requiring defects to be remedied 31

Number of dwelling-houses in which defects were remedied after service of formal notices:

(a) By owners 25
(b) By local authority in default of owners 3

INFESTATION.

Four houses were found infested with bed bugs and were disinfested by use of insecticide. (5% D.D.T. spray).

FOOD INSPECTION.

The 75 producer-retailers of milk in the town have been regularly inspected and the milk examined for bacteriological cleanliness. Owing to a great and prolonged shortage of guinea pigs, only 72 samples were submitted for examination for the presence of Tubercle Bacilli - only one was confirmed as positive and the necessary action completed by the Ministry of Agriculture's Veterinary Inspector. Of a further 83 samples taken, 70 attained the accredited milk standard and 13 were unsatisfactory.

During the hot summer many complaints were received of rapidly souring milk and the farmer in turn complained of lack of water for cooling purposes. One thing is certain, a rapidly souring milk is a dirty milk - the germs have been allowed to multiply rapidly owing to the increased temperature and the answer to this difficulty is, first - produce a bacteriologically clean milk and then cool it effectively - and this can best be accomplished by means of a Brine Cooler which is independant of a mains water supply, which in any case, in summer, would be at a temperature of 65°F.

Much time was taken up in advising the local manufacturers if ice cream and during the later part of the summer they were all producing bacteriologically (Grade 1) satisfactory mixes. The same cannot be said however of most ice cream retailers coming from outside the District whose products were persistantly Grade 4. and unsatisfactory on each occasion they were sampled.

FACTORIES ACT, 1937.

Inspections for purposes of provisions as to health.

Premises	No. on register	Inspections	Notices
1. Factories in which Sections 1, 2, 3, 4 and 6 are to be enforced by Local Authorities.	2	4	-
2. Factories not included in (1) in which Section 7 is enforced by the Local Authority.	26	54	-
3. Other Premises in which Section 7 is enforced by the Local Authority (excluding out-workers' premises)	2	8	-
Total	30	66	-

Cases in which defects were found.

Particulars	Number of cases in which defects were found			
	Found	Remedied	Referred To H.M. Inspector	By H.M. Inspector
Want of cleanliness	-	-	-	-
Overcrowding	-	-	-	-
Unreasonable temperature	-	-	-	-
Inadequate ventilation	-	-	-	-
Ineffective drainago of floors	-	-	-	-
Sanitary Conveniences				
(a) insufficient	6	4	-	-
(b) unsuitable or defective	3	2	-	-
(c) not separate for sexes	1	-	-	1
Other offences against the Act	-	-	-	-
Total	10	6	-	1

There are no Outworkers employed in the District.

AMBULANCE SERVICE.

The Ambulance Service functioned satisfactorily. The Ambulance made 432 journeys as follows:-

<u>Bolton</u>	<u>Wigan</u>	<u>Manchester</u>	<u>Miscellaneous</u>	<u>Total</u>
398	10	8	16	432

A Resuscitation Apparatus of the Single Cylinder type was purchased during the year for use in cases of ~~drown~~ing or coal gas poisoning and is carried on the Ambulance.

INFECTIOUS DISEASE.

Scarlet Fever

During the year 70 cases of Scarlet Fever were notified and of these it was necessary to treat 27 in hospital on account of reasons of public health. The disease continued to be mild with few complications and no deaths.

Measles and Whooping Cough.

The Measles epidemic which in most areas continued from the latter months of 1946 made its impact on the District in January 1947 and during the first few months the majority of the 176 cases were notified. The disease was fortunately mild with very few complications. One case was removed to hospital but there were no deaths. Notifications of only four cases of Whooping Cough were received.

Acute Anterior Poliomyelitis.

Although the District was circled with cases of 'Polio' for the many months the epidemic pursued its course, we were particularly fortunate in having only two cases (one adult and one child)- both

notified during the one week, living at opposite ends of the town and having nothing in common. The school child has made a satisfactory complete recovery, but the adult is still receiving orthopaedic care.

Diphtheria.

Two cases of Diphtheria were notified - both were diagnosed on clinical grounds, no positive swabs being obtained. The one was a child aged four years who had not been immunised and the other a child aged 13 years who had been previously immunised in 1941 - i.e. six years previously and just outside the five year period as recommended for the administration of a 'Booster' or re-inforcing dose.

IMMUNISATION.

Number of children born in year	1947	1946	1945	1944	1943	5 - 9 1938-42	10-14 1933-37	Total
Total immunised during 1947	9	125	27	10	10	92	9	282
Re-inforcement doses	-	-	-	-	6	161	56	223
Total immunised to date	9	126	149	128	141	725	707	1985

Immunisation state of child population as at 31st. December, 1947.

	Under 5 yrs of age	Over 5 & under 15 yrs of age	Total under 15 yrs
Total number immunised to date	553	1432	1985
Percentage of child population immunised	48.08	73.8	64.2

By comparison with the previous year, it will be seen that the immunological state of the child population shows a slight improvement, but a greater response is still needed before we can approach that time when we can consider Diphtheria to be a really rare disease.

WESTHOUGHTON URBAN DISTRICT.

Causes of Death during the year 1947.

Registrar General's Return.

Causes of Death	Males	Females
Measles	-	-
Cerebro-spinal Fever	-	-
Diphtheria	-	-
Influenza	-	-
Tuberculosis of Respiratory System	1	1
Other Tuberculosis	-	1
Cancer	13	8
Diabetes	1	1
Cerebral Haemorrhage	14	11
Heart Disease	32	30
Other Circulatory Diseases	2	2
Bronchitis	2	5
Pneumonia	2	7
Other Respiratory Diseases	3	-
Ulcer of Stomach or Duodenum	1	-
Diarrhoea (under 2 years)	1	-
Syphilitic Diseases	-	1
Appendicitis	-	-
Other Digestive Diseases	3	-
Nephritis	1	1
Acute Polio-myelitis & Polio-encephalitis	-	-
Acute Inf. Encephalitis	-	-
Maternal Causes	-	-
Con. Debility, Premature Birth etc.	6	2
Suicide	1	-
Other Violence & Road Traffic Accidents	6	4
Other defined causes	7	10
Total	96	84

TUBERCULOSIS. New cases and Mortality during 1947.

Years	New cases				Deaths			
	Respiratory		Non-Respiratory		Respiratory		Non-Respiratory	
	M	F	M	F	M	F	M	F
0								
1				1				
5				1				
10								1
15								
20	1							
25		1				1		
35								
45	1	1			1			
55			1					
65 and upwards								
	2	2	1	2	1	1	-	1
Total	4		3		2		1	

NOTIFIABLE DISEASES (OTHER THAN TUBERCULOSIS) DURING THE YEAR 1947. (Notified cases only)

	Cases Notified												Total Deaths	Cases removed to Hospital
	Total cases all ages	Under 1	1 to 2	2 to 3	3 to 4	4 to 5	5 to 10	10 to 15	15 to 20	20 to 35	35 to 45	45 to 65		
Smallpox														
Scarlet Fever	70	1		1	11	9	24	21	3					27
Diphtheria	2				1			1						2
Para-Typhoid														
Measles	176	2	17	18	32	32	74			1				1
Whooping Cough	4	1			1	2								
Pneumonia	6	1									1	4		9
Puerperal Typhoxia														
Acute Polio-myelitis	2							1		1				2
Cerebro-spinal Fever														
Encephalitis Lethargica														
Ophthalmia Neonatorum	1	1												1
Erysipelas														
Total	261	6	17	19	44	44	98	23	3	2	1	4	-	9
														33

